



# Civics Education Working Group

2021



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## Math, English and Civics are the top 3 priorities.

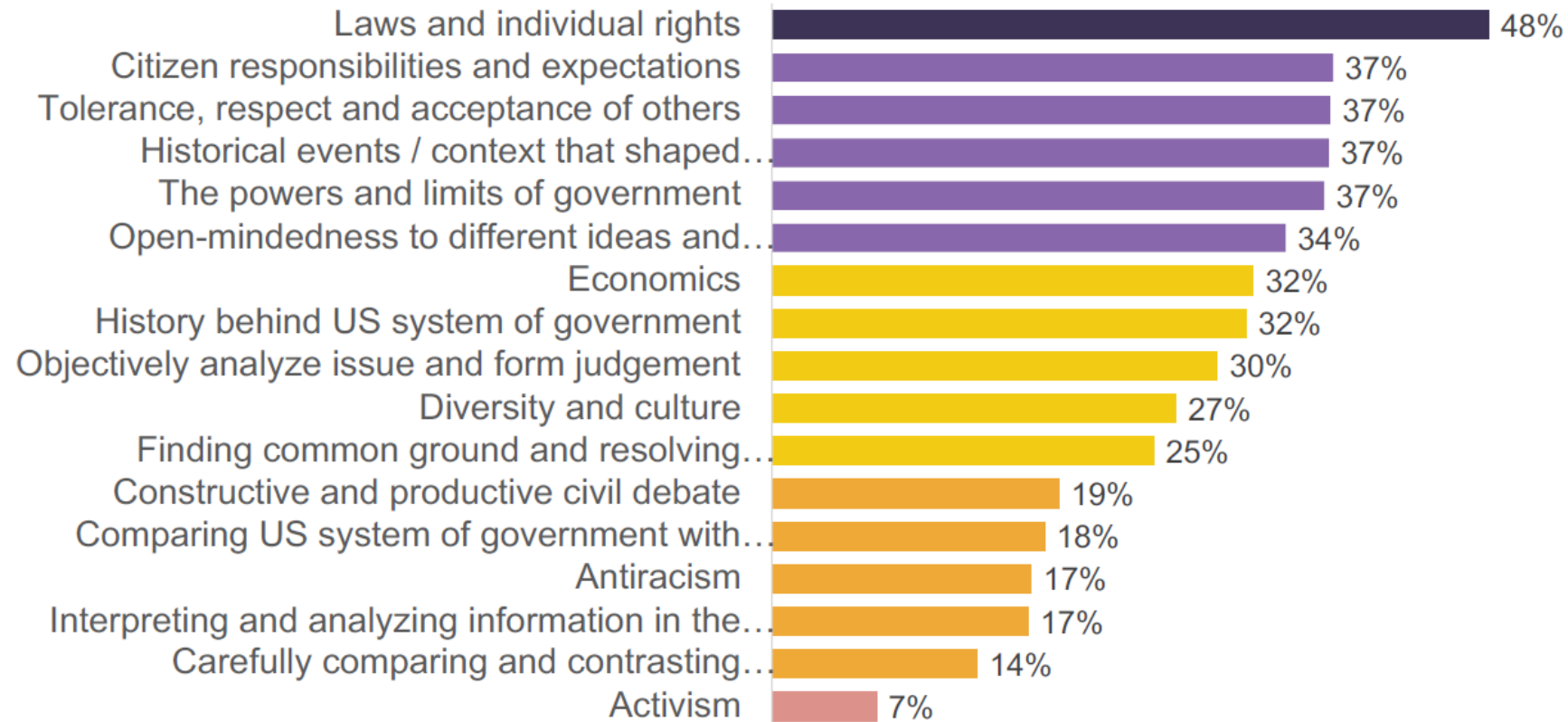
Relative Importance to a Student's Education and Future Life in Society  
(If you had 100 points...give more points to those you feel are the most important)



Q205. Looking at the specific subjects that are covered in K-12 education, please allocate points to each to indicate how important you feel it is to a student's education and future life in our society.

# Law and Individual Rights clear priority

Most Important Topics for Civics to Cover (% in top 5)

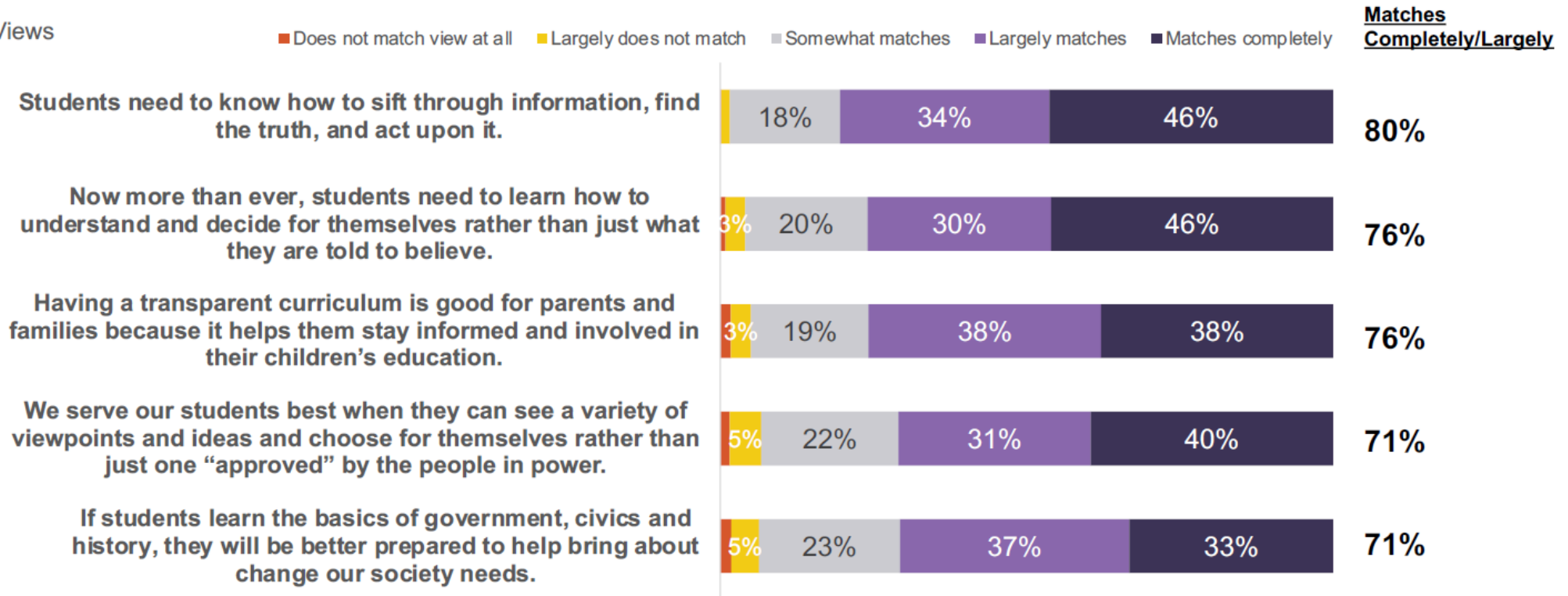


Q300. Civics education can include many topics. Which of the following do you feel are most important for civics education to cover?  
Please choose up to 5 options.



# The top priorities for civics education include teaching students to sift through information and decide for themselves what to believe.

## Top Views

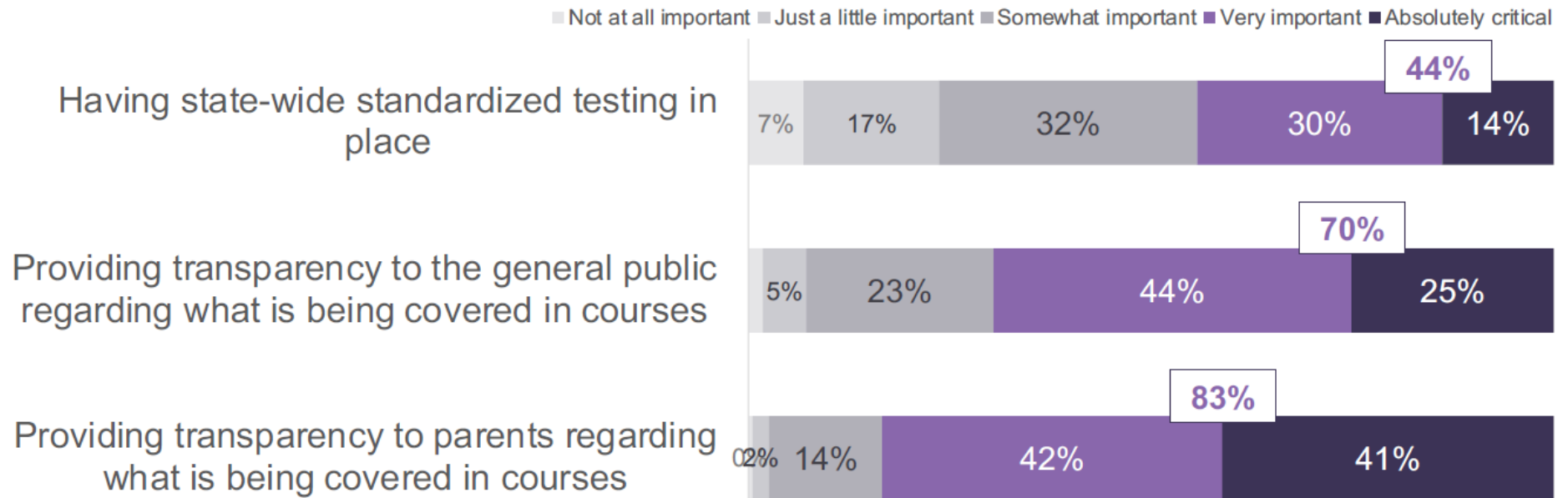


BASE: ALL QUALIFIED RESPONDENTS (n=600)

Q500. How well does each of the following statements match your personal view?

# Standardized Testing Important. Transparency to General Public Very Important. Transparency to Parents Critical.

Importance to K-12 Education



Identical importance parents and general public!

BASE: ALL QUALIFIED RESPONDENTS (n=600)

Pg. 23 Q215. Please rate how important you feel each of the following are when it comes to K-12 education.

Dee Allsop, Heart +  
Mind Strategies

Robert Austin, State  
Office of Education

Judi Hilman, Policy  
Catalyst

-Survey of Utah parents about Civics  
Education in K-12

-Current state of Civics Ed in Utah  
schools

-Utah Civic Learning Collaborative  
direction and objectives

- ▶ **Increased staff development for improved delivery of robust civics ed, teaching critical thinking, media literacy**
- ▶ **Changes to course schedule/sequencing to provide more continuity of curriculum**
- ▶ **Increase curriculum transparency for parents/public**
- ▶ **Create safe space for discussion/debate/conversations/inclusive environment in classrooms**
- ▶ **Include parents as critical stakeholders**
- ▶ **Development of standards for experiential learning**
- ▶ **Definition of metrics for measuring improvement in civics education (not testing)**



Yuval Levin,  
author of A Time  
To Build

Sydnee Dickson,  
State School  
Superintendent

-Discussion of loss of trust in  
institutions

-Utah Portrait of a Graduate  
and demonstration of  
competencies

- ▶ **Teaching of controversial topics discussing both injustices in history AND resources for addressing injustices**
- ▶ **Awareness and education of other cultures, indigenous populations**
- ▶ **Involving and engaging parents in the process**
- ▶ **Taking care in framing questions in school discussions to avoid creating political identities for students in the classroom**

Judi Hilman, Policy Catalyst

Robert Austin, State Office of  
Education

Jeffrey Nokes, Ph.D., UVU

William Shields, West Jordan  
Middle School

Axel Ramirez, Ph.D., UVU

**Building Trust in American Institutions Through Civil  
Dialogue**

**Rationale for Discussion of Contentious Issues**

**Teaching History, Learning Citizenship**

**Building Trust and Constructive Civil Debate**

**The Three Rs Project**

- ▶ Having a safe place to explore ideas in a scaffolded experience
- ▶ Help teachers become experts in teaching controversial topics
- ▶ Compensating teachers for professional development
- ▶ Place priority on history, civics, social studies
- ▶ Creation of district guidelines for controversial issues policy, protection for teachers
- ▶ Teaching and discussion about current events
- ▶ Use of framework for teachers for controversial topics: they say, you say, I say, we say
- ▶ Help teachers to build environment for civil dialogue in the classroom
- ▶ Encourage students to talk with parents about issues outside of classroom
- ▶ Share developmentally and age-appropriate current events information
- ▶ Time is a challenge for teachers – sifting through what to teach, time for professional development
- ▶ Make professional developments more accessible across the state, and for differing levels of experience
- ▶ Creating a line item that creates more experiences for parents to be involved (after school programs?) funding local needs

Holly Richardson,  
Utah Policy

Jennifer Napier-  
Pearce, Senior  
Communications  
Advisor to Gov. Cox

**Being Media Literate: It's  
More Than Just Reading  
the News**

- ▶ Expanded discussion in curriculum of journalistic process, ethics code of journalism
- ▶ Embedding media literacy in all core subjects
- ▶ Interface with journalism students
- ▶ Teaching students to evaluate media sources, online critical reading skills (strengthening current Utah standards)
- ▶ Additional professional development for teaching media literacy/critical evaluation of sources, updating responses to current realities of media
- ▶ Consideration for additional information to publish in course disclosures
- ▶ Teaching fact checking
- ▶ Stipend incentives for teachers
- ▶ Appropriations to fund professional development and stipends
- ▶ Present tools to teachers as well as how to integrate them into current standards
- ▶ Making civics more inclusive in everyday classroom discussions

Rep. Jefferson Burton

Axel Ramirez, Ph.D.,  
UVU

Scott Paul, UVU

Rep. Dan Johnson

Sen. Lincoln Fillmore

**Civic Thought and  
Leadership Initiative**

**Civics Education  
Amendments**

- ▶ **Introduction of HB 327 Civic Thought and Leadership Initiative**
- ▶ **UVU Constitutional Studies Center and discussion of how funds are being used to instruct future educators about teaching civics education**
- ▶ **Course offerings for faculty and staff projects**
- ▶ **Experimental courses in Critical Thinking and Civic Leadership**
- ▶ **Civic Thought and Leadership Oxford Study Abroad**
- ▶ **Teacher Listening Tour – interview of 68 teachers**
  - ▶ **Teachers want more resources and modeling on how to promote civic and civil non-partisan discussions in the classroom**
  - ▶ **Promote Economics training relating to civics education**
- ▶ **UVU Summer Constitutional Literacy Institute – for educators**
- ▶ **Introduction of HB334 Civics Education Amendments**
  - ▶ **Implementation of a 3-year K-12 Civic Engagement pilot project**
- ▶ **Importance of transparency in civics education**





# Civics Education Working Group

## Next Steps



Questions?